

NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRE STANDARDS & TRAINING COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF MEETING

November 7, 2002

(Approved December 5, 2002)

Members Present: Ed Murdough, Stephen Judge, Robert Nelson, Ronald O'Keefe, Les Cartier, David Duquette, Stephen Carrier, Roger Hatfield, Paul Fortier, Peter Russell, Joseph Butts, Corey Landry, Richard Mason.

Members Absent: John Stephen, John Hoglund, Donald Bliss.

Others Present: Division of Fire Standards & Training Staff--Bruce McPherson, Bureau Chief; Dennis Rosolen, Bureau Chief; Sue Prentiss, Bureau Chief; Eric Wilking, Captain; Susan Beaudoin, Recording Secretary.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Item 1. Pledge of Allegiance to Flag. The meeting of the New Hampshire Fire Standards & Training Commission was called to order by Chair Paul Fortier at 12:50 p.m. on Thursday, November 7, 2002 at the Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Item 1. September 5, 2002. Motion was made by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner O'Keefe, to accept the Minutes of the September 5, 2002 Commission meeting with the following changes as noted by Commissioner Judge at the October 3, 2002 Commission meeting:

- (a) Page 13, IX--Nonpublic Session, first paragraph, add the word "unanimously so that the motion reads: motion passed unanimously by roll-call vote.

- (b) Page 13, IX--Nonpublic Session, second paragraph, add the word "unanimously so that the motion reads: motion passed unanimously by roll-call vote.

Motion passed unanimously.

Item 2. October 3, 2002. **Motion** was made by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner O'Keefe, to accept the Minutes of the October 3, 2002 Commission meeting as printed and distributed; motion passed unanimously.

III. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Motion was made by Commissioner Judge, seconded by Commissioner Russell, to go into nonpublic session in order to discuss a matter that might adversely affect the reputation of a person who is not a member of this Commission. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Motion was made by Commissioner Judge, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to keep the Minutes of this nonpublic session confidential. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Motion was made by Commissioner Judge, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to come out of nonpublic session. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Item 1. Emergency Medical Services Liaison. Commissioner Duquette deferred to Chief Prentiss for the Emergency Medical Services report. Chief Prentiss reported on the following items:

- a. Distributed copies of the current organizational chart for the Bureau, as well as a map, and staff coverage for the State. This will be effective December 1, 2002. They have not yet filled the Trauma Coordinator position, and they will be reopening that search as the first search was not successful. Interviews have taken place for two candidates for the Berlin Secretary II position, and interviews for the Concord office Executive Secretary position are being held here at 2:00 p.m. today. They have sent a letter out to all services, instructors, and members of their Medical Control Board, Coordinating Board, and Trauma Medical Review Board.
- b. The Second Annual Trauma Conference was held yesterday in Meredith with 87 people in attendance. It went very well.

- c. There was also a Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act meeting in Meredith yesterday. The Fire Chiefs Association was a cosponsor of that event.
- d. There is a Medical Control Board meeting scheduled for November 21, 2002 at the Fire Academy; they will be revisiting epinephrine administration. Epinephrine administration by EMT basics being a local option item. The protocol has been drafted and the training program by the Bureau is awaiting final approval. Also a spinal assessment and treatment program will be discussed.

Commissioner Carrier asked if it would be called the spinal clearance protocol. Chief Prentiss answered that it would not. It's an assessment and treatment program. Not all hospitals have to do it.

- e. Commissioner Hatfield noted that the Hospital Association has been in touch with him regarding regional Hazardous Materials teams. They have \$300,000 from the Department of Health for preparedness for biological. They are hoping to give them some assistance. The money was divided up between the 26 hospitals by how many ER visits they get; Colebrook, the smallest hospital, got \$2,000; and Elliot got \$27,000. They are supposed to use that money, with very limited red strings attached, to prepare themselves for biological incidents. They are doing everything from training to buying equipment. Chief Prentiss said it is HRSA money, which are Health Resources & Services Administration funds. We had \$7 million in the State; a small percentage of it went to this particular hospital-by-hospital decontamination program. The Bureau does have a seat on the Steering Committee for the implementation of that. Bill Wood will be attending the meeting tomorrow as Chief Prentiss will be out of state.

Item 2. Curriculum Review. Commissioner Duquette reported:

- a. **Fire Officer:** He spoke to Chief Rosolen today; they are looking at the Fire Officer program with Captain Chandler.
- b. **Hazardous Materials Operations (24 hours):** Chief Rosolen would like the Commission to approve the Hazardous Materials Operations (24 hours) program, and we have sponsored two pilots. It is all good to go. Commissioner Cartier said there was just some fine tuning with regard to the test, and that's been solved.

Motion by Commissioner Duquette, seconded by Commissioner Cartier, to approve the Hazardous Materials Operations (24 hours) Program since both pilots have been done. Motion passed unanimously.

- c. **ARFF:** He has not heard from the ARFF Committee. Chair Fortier asked if the ARFF Committee has been meeting. He noted that Dr.

Munroe has a concern with the time before someone becomes an ARFF instructor. He asked if anyone could enlighten him on that discussion. Director Mason answered that he can find out where the ARFF Committee is with their meetings.

- d. **Driver/Operator—Pumps:** We will be doing another pilot for the Pumps class and then that will be out and available. There hasn't been a big demand for the program.
- e. **Visiting Committees:** Director Mason stated that we have advertisements going out in the current *Fire Service News* for Visiting Committees for Firefighter, Fire Officer, and Fire Service Instructor. Commissioner Duquette asked if we could add to that. Chief McPherson replied that we couldn't as the newsletter is at the printer. The next newsletter comes out January 1, 2003.

Item 3. Fire Marshal's Office. Director Bliss was absent.

Item 4. Forest Protection Bureau. Commissioner Nelson reported on the following items:

- a. We have made a conditional offer of employment to their newest Forest Ranger candidate; background check is being done now. Hope to have him on staff before the end of this calendar year.
- b. We have ordered all the equipment, including a truck that will be needed for that new Forest Ranger position.
- c. Met with staff three weeks ago to look at possibly redistricting the State with the two new Rangers. No new changes will be made for a year or so.
- d. Fire towers went down on October 4.
- e. After three years, they did get a new roof on the Mount Prospect fire tower, so it is consistent with historical resources in the State. It was a major accomplishment.
- f. Progressing fairly well.

Item 5. Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT). Commissioner Cartier reported that he was called into Chief Rosolen's office for a couple of clarifications on the Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT) program that have been resolved.

Commissioner Cartier said he hasn't talked with Director Mason about submitting the program to IFSTA yet. Instructor Chris Silver is helping him to develop the requirements for NFPA for RIT.

Commissioner Cartier said they are getting positive feedback from the programs that are going on, and asked that, if anyone hears anything positive or negative about the program, they let him know.

Director Mason asked how close our program is to the New York RIT program. Commissioner Cartier answered that it is very close. Director Mason stated that we could probably give National Fire Academy certificates if it is based on the New York program. We might also be able to free up some funds for classes if it is close. He said he will know definitely in the next week or so, and will report on it next month.

Item 6. NFPA Standards 1031-1033-1035. Commissioner Hatfield said he had no report. He noted that Rick Wood, the Chair of the Visiting Committee, has been at the National Fire Academy for two weeks for the Executive Fire Officer program and is going to Police Standards & Training currently.

Item 7. Academy Awards. Commissioner Cartier reported that the Academy Awards ceremony is today. The rehearsal is at 4:00 p.m., dinner is at 5:00, and the awards ceremony at 7:00. Director Mason announced that former Commission member Charlie Hall will be singing a solo of "God Bless America" at the ceremony.

Item 8. Nominations (Chair and Vice Chair). Chair Fortier reported that nominations for Chair and Vice Chair are to be presented at the December meeting. The Chair of the Nominations Committee is Commissioner Nelson and members are Commissioners Butts, Hoglund, and Murdough, with Commissioner Murdough replacing former Commissioner Porter. Commissioner Nelson asked that, if anyone is interested in either position, please let him know.

VI. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Item 1. Director's Report #65 covered the following subjects: 1. Academy Awards, 2. National TRADE Conference, 3. Committee of Merit, 4. Dormitory Construction, 5. Strategic Planning Process, 6. EMS Conference, 7. The Spurgeon Award, 8. Distance Learning, and 9. Home Update.

Director Mason commented further on Distance Learning that it was started by a federal grant. We have videoconference capabilities now; literally, it's statewide. Commissioner Murdough asked if Director Mason had talked to the National Guard as they are putting it into their armories. Director Mason replied that he has talked with them.

Other items reported on by Director Mason were:

10. We are looking at a name change for the Division to Fire Training & EMS. This suggestion came from an EMS person. Senator Clegg is going to put the Bill in for us.

11. The Hazardous Materials Awareness program will be presented in every hospital in the State using HMEP funds.
12. Personnel are here today from the Massachusetts Fire Academy. They have \$40 million available, and they wanted to come here to see what we did and why we did it.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Item 1. C2F2. Commissioner Hatfield stated that he made a lot of contacts, called a lot of people, and sent messages out to the Federation of Mutual Aids to get feedback from his membership.

Motion by Commissioner Hatfield, seconded by Commissioner O'Keefe, that we send the C2F2 back to the Visiting Committee for curriculum review to be looked at, and change the residency requirement to recommended.

Commissioner Duquette called for a point of order. He asked if the intent of the motion is that residency will be looked at by the visiting committee or that Commissioner Hatfield would like the residency to be changed to recommended at this time. Commissioner Hatfield said that they like the curriculum, but they don't like the residency requirement. Some would like the ability to stay here, but not have it mandatory. Residency should be eliminated as mandatory, but the students should be able to stay here if they want.

Commissioner O'Keefe stated he would give his time to Commissioner Duquette. Commissioner Duquette asked if it is two separate motions, or would the Visiting Committee be asked to look at the residency requirement. Commissioner Hatfield replied that he would break up the motion. Chair Fortier reminded everyone that the motion currently reads that, if it goes back to the Visiting Committee and the Visiting Committee still says residency is required, it stands. Commissioner O'Keefe withdrew his second to the motion, and Commissioner Hatfield withdrew his motion.

Motion by Commissioner Hatfield, seconded by Commissioner O'Keefe, to eliminate mandatory residency to C2F2 and make it recommended.

Commissioner Carrier asked what people feel would be the result of that. Commissioner O'Keefe answered that he tried to get as much input as possible from the constituents he represents. They had 11 full-time fire chiefs either testify at the public hearings, or email him, or send him letters, or telephone him; the majority, eight out of the 11, wished to see residency become voluntary. Some of it was cost; some of it was putting

a burden on families. The permanent fire chiefs, the ones who contacted him, think residency should be changed to voluntary.

Director Mason said that one real key issue that he sees is that we would make some kind of policy or procedure on is that, if a student is late, he/she will be out of the program. Some fire chiefs will put that student on duty at night and, if the student is on a call, he/she will not make it to class on time; that is unacceptable. Second, he has never seen a program that is developed not only to teach people, but also, whether it's a refresher or not, to reaffirm to people the people skills that are in the residency program. Chief Kane says that he doesn't care if we have that program or not, he's still going to have that two weeks in the program because that group came out much more cohesive than any other class that he's had.

Commissioner Cartier said that he was at the second hearing. People were very positive to the whole program; he didn't get any negatives out of that. The Fire Chiefs Association did have a very in-depth discussion at Dixville Notch their last meeting regarding C2F2. Basically the proposal that came out of there was to keep the concept the way it was. It does need some fine tuning from the curriculum standpoint. They had voted on the concept itself, and that is exactly what the motion had said. All the members who were there were in favor of the concept.

Commissioner Landry stated that he talked to many. He keeps hearing that we need to look at curriculum. He thinks we are premature in tying the hands of the visiting committee right now. They could say there will be residency only on certain nights.

Commissioner Butts said that his organization would like it strongly recommended. However, he agrees with Director Mason that there has to be severe penalties if someone comes in late. He doesn't want to see it go to where someone would like to do it in modular fashion. This program is to develop teamwork. Students are going to have to leave here and go to work nights.

Commissioner Russell said that he attended both hearings and he was very happy that he did. The students were overwhelmingly in favor of residency. He said that for a career he couldn't believe that a person cannot spend two weeks of nights here if they are looking to make a commitment for their careers. He still strongly feels we should keep residency intact; he believes it has a lot of benefits. The curriculum has to be looked at and tweaked. We heard from people who took the class that the residency should stay that way.

Commissioner Carrier asked what the staff felt would be the effect on the program if the residency requirement were gone. Would most people bail out or would they stick around? Captain Wilking said that he has been involved with all nine classes. He noted that Commissioner Russell said the testimony was 100 percent unanimous and overwhelmingly that the students think it's a needed part. As far as running the program, it makes it more difficult if it's not mandatory. If the students stay, he is guaranteed that they are all here ready to go to work. During Recruit School if somebody arrives late, it makes it very difficult in the delivery of the program. If a student misses an entire morning, do they continue the program. Captain Wilking said that he appreciates the Commission allowing him to speak and would answer any other questions they may have.

Commissioner Cartier stated that he did some talking to the permanent fire chiefs; what he got from them was that, when they put their contract together, they had put in their budgets for overtime above what their personnel would get paid for and they forgot about C2F2. C2F2 and the Fire Academy are now the scapegoat for an error they made in contract negotiations with their towns.

Chair Fortier noted that he was hearing two different things from the two representatives of the Fire Chiefs Association.

Commissioner O'Keefe read the minutes of the Fire Chiefs Association meeting: "On a motion duly made and seconded, Thibeault and Howard, it was voted 11 yea, 2 nay, 3 abstain, that the Fire Chiefs recommend continuance of the C2F2 program in its present concept and our representatives implement the recommendations made by the majority of the Chiefs during public comment session and input." Commissioner O'Keefe said he didn't think Commissioner Cartier should speak for the permanent Fire Chiefs. He said not one permanent Chief has told him it's a contractual issue. He stated that he represents the permanent Fire Chiefs, and they have some legitimate issues. He wanted to clarify that comment because he said Commissioner Cartier only gave a part of that motion, and he wanted to make sure that everyone is clear that they didn't vote for the residency; they voted for the concept of the program but it was up to the constituents to give input. Commissioner Cartier stated that, when they discussed it that night, the concept meant that the residency and everything would stay exactly the same except the curriculum needed to be tweaked. He said he stood in front of them and said where am I going on this issue, that he needed everybody's input on this issue, and that's the way it was. They basically said the concept was to stay the way that it is, and the basic thing was the curriculum had to be tweaked. That was the impression that he got from them and brought to the table.

Commissioner O'Keefe said he was not at that meeting and he appreciates the input, but the minutes are clear that the constituents whom he represents and whom he has done everything possible to contact have given him direction that they want to see changes and they don't support residency.

Chair Fortier stated that everyone has to vote his or her own conscience. It seems like the party line is different.

Commissioner Duquette said he would like to follow up on Commissioner Carrier's question. When we looked at changing this and we held all the discussions on it, everybody pretty much agreed. He talked with a lot of students who have gone through it and Captain Wilking just said it again, the people who are directly affected want to stay. If you don't make it a requirement, they are going to stay anyways. He said look at the Company Officer program, and how many stay just because it's so convenient to stay. If we have a requirement and it's known up front that, when you come to C2F2, this is when you are going to be here. If you're not here, you are out of the program. Until the first person gets booted, it probably won't mean too much. But after the first person doesn't make it and doesn't have a job, then the word is out there that this is the requirement; you sign off at orientation and the department knows about it. If the department wants to pay the overtime and make them work, that's their business. It's a concern with some of the communities with the 28-A issue. If it continues to be a requirement, that will be pursued further. There is also the issue of the discrimination factor of those who aren't in the fire service that want to be a part of this program to get hired. When you have a residency requirement, those not affiliated with a department have to pay to stay. They are required to stay; they are required to pay.

Captain Wilking stated that what jumps out at that proposal is the perception at least that the personnel providing the program become the bad guys, not this Commission, not the Fire Chiefs, not anybody. We are the one who at 8:30 in the morning tells the firefighter to pack your bags and go home. Commissioner O'Keefe said that is your job. Captain Wilking said that it is also our job to instruct, counsel, and to try to do everything we can to make every firefighter the best-trained and most capable citizen and firefighter that we can. We don't make every effort to wash someone out. If they arrive late, they are done. If a fire chief calls and says he kept him on, can he stay, the answer is no. Somebody or several may be washed. Do they have to come back two or three months later when C2F2 is available again. Do you have to make exceptions as a Commission that they are over their year but they have to come back to do it again.

Director Mason said let's take a step back to 1982 when NFPA had Firefighter One, Two, and Three. New Hampshire took the objectives and rearranged them a little bit to make it our Firefighter Level One be a basic structural fire fighting person. The objectives were looked at. He was the Training Officer for Lebanon at the time; he was not a part of the rule making. The New Hampshire fire service said we don't need NFPA Firefighter Two or Three; we need something between One and Two that you really need to have for certification. They came up with the old Career Level Firefighter, and that was the certification you needed and you could get it a host of ways. Then comes 1996-97 when it said Firefighter One and Two are the only levels in NFPA and that's not enough for New Hampshire. We obviously had a culture change that we want our firefighters to have more training and better training than they did in the past, which brought us to the certification program with the residency unanimously approved not only by the Fire Chiefs, not only by the Professional Firefighters, not only the Permanent Firefighters, but also the State Firemen's Association. They all got what they wanted and now here we are a couple of years later right back where we started. He just doesn't see the need of it. Years ago typically people were hired from the trades, and that is completely changed. We are a more professional organization where, if somebody calls here to ask what to do to become a firefighter, we say the first step is in Laconia with a two-year degree and EMS, and then take Firefighter I and be ready to be a firefighter. To say that we are taking people away from their job because we are mandating that they come to residency, that is professionalism. That is nation wide. We ought to get to a standard of professionalism and stay there for a year or two.

Chair Fortier stated that he was at both hearings. He thinks we are mistaking who our customers are. The Professional Fire Chiefs and the Professional Firefighters—they are our customers because it's the full-time firefighter standard. Attending the second hearing, he said something struck him between the eyes; neither one of them are the true customers. The true customers are the kids who came out of the class and the instructors who came to testify of what they thought of the residency and what they thought of the program as a whole. There's a dollar sign involved, and the dollar sign is now poking it's way through the dirt. If there are locals and towns that have it in their contracts, it will probably be time to discuss it. He would hope that, as professionals, we will look at the true customer and what do we want out of that true customer.

Chair Fortier stated that, being involved in a number of those classes, we were providing in that residency requirement something valuable that we can't place a figure on. We teach them everything from manners to being

a little patriotic to being respectful. All those things don't come in a union contract or in an employment agreement. It's the spirit of the fire service. If we do sit here and provide a voluntary curriculum with certain mentoring things in some night classes that are going to be recommended, and candidate X takes those, what about candidate Y who decides not to take that, is that a double standard.

Chair Fortier said that we have had opinions that it's an unfunded mandate and it isn't. Take us to court and let's see. He said he still supports the residency requirement.

Commissioner Hatfield asked if we could move the motion.

Commissioner Duquette said that he came to Recruit School in 1983 for eight weeks, worked every night shift that he had to work, and went to EMT school two nights a week. The 24 of them, including Commissioner Butts, did the marching. Without residency we served the true customers, which were the students. They did some pretty good things. He thinks we are training firefighters and however we can train those firefighters is what we should be doing. If people are left out because we require them to stay here and they can't, he thinks it's wrong. Don't make it so stringent that we're not going to serve those customers.

Commissioner O'Keefe stated that he agrees with Commissioner Duquette. He wanted to be sure that everyone knows that the Fire Chiefs are not against the program. Most of them support the program but would like to see some changes. But they do have an issue with the residency. Is some of it money; it could be. Union contracts; no one has said that to him of the ones he represents. He thinks that we do have to look at the true customer. This program was designed for above and beyond, which is a credit to the State of New Hampshire. We should always do that. He thinks it is designed for someone who has no experience. The one candidate that he had who went through this who had been on the job for a year didn't get anything out of it. He said he could understand Manchester Fire Chief Kane; if he could send 25 firefighters through it together, it would be beneficial. If you want to talk about patriotism and comradery, add that to Firefighter I. Fire service is important, but family is number one and is always number one.

Commissioner Cartier said that, being one of the instructors on the C2F2 program, some of the people who have time on the job are just as rookie as people who don't have anything. He had two people with safety issues, both of whom had been on the job. One was in the officer's seat and had his flashlight on the floor and it rolled under the brake pedal. The second one opened the back door of the truck as it was rounding a corner because his mask strap got caught in the door. These people

were on the job and were experienced people. Commissioner Butts said that some of the hardest to train are the ones with time on the job.

The vote on the motion to eliminate mandatory residency for C2F2 and make it recommended was done by roll call as follows:

Commissioner Murdough	nay	Commissioner Hatfield	yea
Commissioner Nelson	abstain	Chair Fortier	nay
Commissioner O'Keefe	yea	Commissioner Russell	nay
Commissioner Cartier	nay	Commissioner Butts	yea
Commissioner Duquette	yea	Commissioner Landry	nay
Commissioner Carrier	yea		

With five yeas, five nays, and one abstain, the motion was defeated.

Director Mason said that, when this curriculum was developed, there was a two-day workshop with four representatives from each of four groups—Fire Chiefs, State Firemen, Professional Firefighters, and Permanent Firefighters. He said maybe it would make sense to go through the same process and have it start off with a review of what happened. Call the same groups together. Chair Fortier said that, if it was opened as a Visiting Committee, those same organizations could apply to be a part of that Visiting Committee.

Motion by Commissioner Landry, seconded by Commissioner Carrier, to establish a visiting committee, according to Commission protocol, to evaluate the curriculum of C2F2.

Commissioner Murdough asked why the visiting committee couldn't look at residency again. Captain Wilking stated that the new Visiting Committee would already know several factors that would make their job easier from the standpoint of developing the curriculum. The number of days is set; it's residency; it allows them to make decisions on parts of the curriculum that may include an evening program. All they really need to do is look at what needs to be delivered during that program. Commissioner Murdough said that the residency requirement would be driven by the curriculum. He doesn't think we should tie the hands of the Committee saying that residency is a fore drawn conclusion. Commissioner O'Keefe said he agrees with that statement. He thinks the Visiting Committee should have some say in whether there is residency or not. Commissioner Landry stated that he agrees; they should be able to look at it. Chair Fortier explained that the visiting committee could come out with some kind of modular base, field deliverable, whatever. Things stay status quo, as they are now, until we hear from this Visiting Committee. Chair Fortier said that the motion would reflect that the Visiting Committee would look at the total curriculum.

Commissioner Carrier asked what happens after the visiting committee comes back. Director Mason answered that we typically would do two pilots, one in the field and one here at the Academy.

Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Fortier said that each Visiting Committee has a minimum of one Commission member and the Chair usually appoints the Chair of that Visiting Committee. Due to the nature of this Visiting Committee, he appointed Commissioner Murdough as the Chair. Since the subject is curriculum and he represents the Department of Education, Commissioner Murdough said he felt it is appropriate that he be a member of the Visiting Committee but not necessarily the Chair. Commissioner Cartier stated that he thinks Commissioner Murdough is very nonbiased on the issue and would be perfect as Chair. Chair Fortier noted that that is why he appointed him Chair of the Visiting Committee.

Commissioner Russell reminded everyone that, when the dust is settled, the NH Municipal Association would like to have an article in the *Town & City Magazine* about where we are on the C2F2 issue. They would like to have representatives from all sides participate in that article, so it would be an open discussion of the item.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

IX. RETREAT ITEM DISCUSSION

The Retreat item discussion on Instructor Quality Control was tabled until the December 5, 2002 Commission meeting.

Commissioner O'Keefe asked if the Commission does an annual retreat. Chair Fortier replied that one is done about every five years. They are currently looking at items from the last retreat. Commissioners Butts and Cartier are responsible for the report on Instructor Quality Control for the next meeting, and Commissioner Butts said they have met with Director Mason on it.

X. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Item 1. Advisory Council on Preparedness & Security. Chair Fortier said that he read a letter from Commissioner Flynn to the Commission members at the October Commission meeting regarding appointment of a member of this Commission to the newly formed Advisory Council on Preparedness & Security. Chair Fortier noted that Commissioner Landry has volunteered for that appointment, and he thanked Commissioner Landry for his willingness to step forward.

Item 2. NH Fire Academy Website. Commissioner Carrier asked if the NH Fire Academy website is being updated. Chief McPherson reported that we are working on it now.

Item 3. Notes from Commissioner Nelson. Commissioner Nelson reported:

- a. Their website is at nhdfi.org, not at the .com address.
- b. The Twin State Mutual Aid President is looking to get clarification on issues that have come up that this Commission may have to look at regarding training reciprocity between New Hampshire and Vermont. They do training on either side of the border. There are issues on Workers' Compensation for those in training, whether in one state or the other. Also, pay and reimbursement for resources going across state lines.
- c. Federally, they are looking at more required training for wildland firefighters, with a considerable increase in hours. From the Division of Forests & Lands standpoint, they may be looking at increased recommended training in the wildland fire aspect of things as they are coming under increased pressure from federal organizations that already exist within the State for fire suppression systems on their federal reserves. This is not coming from the White Mountain National Forest. They have many other federal holdings in the State. His staff has been talking with the two Chiefs here at the Fire Academy about looking at curriculum changes with the Forestry program as well, or wildland fires as they are now directed to call it.

Item 4. Retired Chief Bruce Robbins. Chair Fortier said that he was on vacation a couple of weeks ago in Bermuda and looked up a former Commissioner, the former Fire Chief of Woodsville, Bruce Robbins, who has been living in Bermuda for the past six years. He went out to supper with him and had an inside tour of the Island with him. He sends his regards to all.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner O'Keefe, seconded by Commissioner Cartier, to adjourn at 3:15 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Fortier wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard A. Mason, Director